# Tangwang language

The **Tangwang language** (Chinese: 唐汪话 *Tángwàng huà*) is a variety of Mandarin Chinese heavily influenced by the Mongolic Santa language (Dongxiang). It is spoken in a dozen or so villages in Dongxiang Autonomous County, Gansu Province, China. The linguist Mei W. Lee-Smith calls this creole language the "Tangwang language" (Chinese: 唐汪话), based on the names of the two largest villages (Tangjia 唐家 and Wangjia 汪家, parts of Tangwang town) where it is spoken.[3]

| Tangwang | |
|---|---|
| **Native to** | China |
| **Region** | Gansu |
| **Native speakers** | (20,000 cited 1995)[1] |
| **Language family** | mixed Mandarin–Santa |
| **Writing system** | Arabic, Latin |
| **Language codes** | |
| **ISO 639-3** | *None* (mis) |
| **Glottolog** | tang1373 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/tang1373)[2] |

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## Speakers

According to Lee-Smith (1996), the Tangwang language is spoken by about 20,000 people living in the north-eastern part of the Dongxiang Autonomous County (Tangwang town). These people self-identify as Dongxiang (Santa) or Hui people. The Tangwang speakers don't speak Dongxiang language.[3]

## Description

The Tangwang language uses mostly Mandarin words and morphemes with Dongxiang grammar. Besides Dongxiang loanwords, Tangwang also has a substantial number of Arabic and Persian loanwords.[3]

Like standard Mandarin, Tangwang is a tonal language. However, grammatical particles, which are typically borrowed from Mandarin but used in the way Dongxiang morphemes would be used in Dongxiang, do not carry tones.[3]

For example, while the Mandarin plural suffix *-men* (们) has only very restricted usage (it can be used with personal pronouns and some nouns related to people), Tangwang uses it, in the form *-m*, universally, the way Dongxiang would use its plural suffix *-la*. Mandarin pronoun *ni* (你) can be used in Tangwang as a possessive suffix (meaning "your").

Unlike Mandarin, but like Dongxiang, Tangwang has grammatical cases as well (but only four of them, instead of eight in Dongxiang).[3]

The word order of Tangwang is the same as Dongxiang subject-object-verb form.

Tangwang combines the characteristics of Mandarin Chinese and Dongxiang Mongolian.[4] The hybrid language is a symbol of language blending. According to Lee-Smith, the blending is caused by the Silk Road.[3]

## See also

- Wutun language

## References


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3. Lee-Smith, Mei W. (1996), "The Tangwang language", in Wurm, Stephen A.; Mühlhäusler, Peter; Tyron, Darrell T. (eds.), *Atlas of languages of intercultural communication in the Pacific, Asia, and the Americas, Volume 2, Part 1. (Volume 13 of Trends in Linguistics, Documentation Series).* (https://books.google.com/books?id=glU0vte5gSkC), International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (Walter de Gruyter), pp. 875–882, ISBN 978-3-11-013417-9
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## Further reading


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